

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, and 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers, Washington, Neuwirth and Merritt

Also present were: Chief Paul Hammick, Chief William Riley – Center Fire District, Philip K. Scheck, Jr., Town Manager, India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilor Hypolite, Chief Robert Farmer – Blue Hills Fire District and Pat Braun - EMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 13, 2015.

POLICE

The police department budget is on track with no issues to report.

Crime

There was a decrease in crime 12% for the month of July and 6% YTD. Arrest data has also decreased 2% YTD for adults and juveniles. The department continued the trend in a positive direction.

The Patrol Division will continue their focus on traffic and speed enforcement. Most of this enforcement activity has been funded through state DOT grants. Officers are focusing on speed and unsafe driving conditions with primary locations at Cottage Grove Road, Woodland Avenue, Blue Hills Avenue, Maple Avenue, Duncaster Road, Park Avenue, Brown Street and Tunxis Avenue.

Bike patrols at the Town Center have been very well received by residents and businesses. Officers patrols have been especially effective during summer concert nights.

Chief Hammick noted that in the first week of August, fifteen cars were broken into on Green Meadow Drive, Jeffrey Lane, Revere Drive, Applewood Road, and Carpenter Lane. Several items were stolen from various locations. The Connecticut Intelligence Center Bullentin issued have identified suspects pending investigation.

There were no citizen complaints for the month of July.

There was one use of force incident involving Officer Kyle Sandberg. Officer Sandberg was involved in tasing someone during a domestic violence incident.

Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick reported that Officer Christopher Obey retired on July 1, 2015 after 12 years at the department.

Certified Officer Michael McKenna resigned from the department to pursue another opportunity in Florida.

Officer Steven Grabowski graduated from the police academy on June 17, 2015. He is currently doing very well in his field officer training.

Officer Jonathan Sykes continues to do well in the Hartford Police Academy and is expected to graduate at the end of September 2015. Chief Hammick also noted Officer Alicia Aldridge is reportedly doing very well in the police academy.

Certified Officer Stacey Thomas from West Hartford, CT was hired for the department and will begin in early September.

On August 8, 2015, 120 applicants completed the multi town test for placement on an active recruitment list.

There were 4 applicants for the Police Cadet Program. All four applicants did not complete the CHIP – Cooper's Standard Test (physical fitness exam). These applicants will be given another opportunity to retake this test on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 in order to enter into the Cadet Program.

On July 24, 2015, the department promoted three officers to the rank of Sergeant, Officer John Finn, Officer Zachary Klomberg and Officer Tiesha Thomas.

CALEA

Chief Hammick is still awaiting the assessment report of the department. Chief Hammick stated that he will be in attendance at the Annual CALEA Conference in November, where the final results should be presented.

FIRE

Chief Riley explained stats from last meeting involving severity of incidents.

There was a major fire on 34 Jerome Avenue, in which the fire in the wall was caused the plumber soldering pipes.

Chief Riley also clarified the collaboration of mutual agreements for regional taskforce.

BVA

BVA hosted CPR/AED for all town employees in the last month that was very successful. BVA volunteers participated in the Annual West Indian Celebration held on the town green. In addition, they also spoke with fire department interns regarding the EMT services.

Chief Hammick reported that BVA continue to fill shifts with their volunteers.

The open vacancy for part time Assistant BVA Coordinator was re-advertised. The position was offered and accepted, however it was later declined.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Hammick gave a status update on the possibility of obtaining body cameras for the department. The department is still awaiting on the state legislature standards for funding and approval to purchase body cameras. Currently, the department continues to examine and testing body cameras from various manufacturers such as On Scene Technologies and Panasonic.

The department received a \$30,000 JAG grant to purchase the data software to support the memory capacity daily activity use of wearing body cameras.

COMMENTS

Councilor Washington inquired about preparing Explorers for physical agility test as well as making sure to invest funding to ensure passing this test requirement.

Councilor Rivers stated that average 18 year old should be able to pass this test.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager recommended to emphasize physical requirements and reopen testing program for the Police Cadet program.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.